number of Workshed-cum-Houses sanctioned under the scheme during the 2002-03 & 2003-04 is given below:

Sl.	Name of the State	Workshed-cum-Houses sanctioned	
		2002-03	2003-04
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	772
2.	Karnataka	3453	3070
3.	Kerala	371	*
4.	Nagaland	—	3720
5.	Tamil Nadu	344	113
6.	Tripura	—	550
	TOTAL	4168	8225

Export of knitwears and shawls

t63. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of readymade garments, specially knitwears and shawls from the country during the last three years; and

(b) the measures taken by Government for boosting exports of the said garments?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the readymade garments exports during the last three years *i.e.* 2001-02,2002-03 and 2003-04 has been as given below:—

(Value in US $ Million)

Year	Readymade garments including knitwears	Handicrafts including shawls
April 2001-March 2002	4618.7	1059.2
April 2002-March 2003	5334.3	1317.9
April 2003-March 2004	5625.8	1011.8

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) To strengthen domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition, the following important announcements has been made in the Union Budget 2004-05:

— Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.

— Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT &T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.

— Basic customs duty on various textile machinery and spare parts has been reduced to 5%.

— Beside, Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to boost textile exports including knitwears and shawls from the country. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

i. The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment of Rs. 5 crores.

ii. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

iii. Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy mesures. This further encourages modernisation.

iv. With a view to making fabric production competitive, the customs duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

vi. Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

vii. The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

viii. For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme' (TCIDS) has been launched.

ix. The Export Promotion Councils have been undertaking export promotion events like participation in overseas exhibitions/fairs, organizing BSMs abroad, sponsoring trade delegations in consultation with Indian Mission at abroad.

Boosting the handloom and handicraft in J&K

64. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Goverment's consideration to boost handloom and handicraft industry in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a special package for the purpose has been earmarked for the State an/ by when the same is expected to be released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The Government of India has been implementing various handloom & handicraft schemes for their development in the States, including the State of J&K. However, to boost the handlooms & handicrafts in the State of J *&* K, the then Prime Minister announced special Package for the State. The Package has following components:

1. Integrated Project for Development of Wool and Woollen Design and Development Centre